AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

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WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, JULY 6, 1918.

AGITATE! EDUCATE! ORGANIZE!

VOL. 8. NO. 15. WHOLE NO. 379.

The A. F. of L. Weekly News Letter contains a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, concerning in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

HE IS FROM MISTOURI; PRESIDENT SHOWED HIM

...ington, July 6.—Congress eliminated a legislative rider requiring approval by the president of hours a day instead of seven from the legislative, executive and judicial appropriation bill, after President Wilson had vetoed the measure because of the provision. Salary increases for the clerks of $120 a year to meet the increased cost of living were included in the bill.

The president took the position that, having asked private employers to do their part in meeting the labor conditions unfavorable to labor during the war, he could not sign a bill under which the government itself would make such a change.

When an effort to override the veto failed in the house by a vote of 246 to 59, the bill promptly was repassed without the rider, and similar action in the senate followed. The senate added an amendment extending the salary advances to employes paid from lump sum appropriations. This was accepted also by the house, and the measure went back to the president.

The vetoed provision was an amendment by Representative Borland, of Missouri, on which he has been fighting to establish an eight-hour day in government departments.

The veto message follows:

"At the outset of the war I felt it my duty to ask employers in the United States to make a special effort to see to it that the conditions of labor were in no respect allowed unfavorably to the laborers.

"It has been evident from the first how directly the strain of this war is to bear upon those who do the labor which underlies the industry and mobilizing the nation and it seemed to me all the more that it seems to me now, that it is of the highest importance that the advantages which have been secured for labor before the war began should not be subtracted from or abated.

"Having taken this position in an earnest appeal to other employers, I do not feel justified in assenting to a measure in which the United States as an employer changes the conditions of the labor of its own employes unfavorably to them. I feel the freer to take this position because I have not learned from any quarter that the employes of the government in any district have been slack in their labor or have demurred from doing any of the necessary work at any time and the extigency require. On the contrary, I have learned that they have cheerfully done additional labor at the time and the evidence of the compulsion of law."

JAMAICA HAS STRIKES.

Kingston, Jamaica, July 6.—A great wave of unrest is passing over the laboring classes of the islands throughout Jamaica. During the past week there have been more strikes than have ever taken place before in any corresponding period.

Most of them were amicably settled. The banana and coal carriers at the docks of the United Fruit company and the Atlantic Fruit company, who struck, saw the governor, who advised them to accept the compromise offered by the companies.

The situation is so serious that the governor has issued the following notice:

"The governor directs that laborers should be sternly cautioned not to strike, and that striking affects the island's most essential trade—the trade. The proper course for laborers to adopt if dissatisfied with their wages, and unable to arrive at an agreement with their employers, is that they should appoint representatives to present their grievances to a board which the governor will be prepared to appoint."

LABOR SHORTAGE ACUTE.

Washington, July 6.—America's war labor problem is becoming serious. Hundreds of thousands of ordinary laborers and skilled mechanics in all lines must be obtained immediately for industries throughout the country if the war program is to be carried out completely, according to an announcement by the United States employment service of the department of labor.

Between 300,000 and 400,000 laborers are needed, the announcement in addition there is a lack of workers for coal mines, which alone imperils all other war industries.

"So serious is the situation considered," the department of labor announced, "that the United States employment service, in which labor recruiting for the war work has been centralized, is endeavoring to complete its recruiting machinery so that wholesale raids may be stopped before the ban against private labor recruiting goes into effect on August 1."

STRIKERS RESUME WORK.

Bridgeport, Conn., July 6.—The 1,000 members of the Machinists' unions who struck to enforce the wage rate announced by the government returned to work when they were assured that the war labor board would grant them a hearing and award the fixed wage called for under the government provisions. Representatives of the board are hearing the complaints of the workers and the employers. Before the rate was fixed for toolmakers and $6 for machinists could be put into effect, the secretary of war stepped in. He ordered a halt pending a standard wage being set for the country.

CONCEDED 80 CENTS A DAY.

San Francisco, July 6.—The Universal Gas and Electric company, operating in this city, has signed a new wage agreement with the electrical workers, through the Pacific district council of Electrical Workers, granting an increase of 80 cents a day to day workers and an advance of $20 per to men employed by the month. The minimum wage for journeymen will be $6.80 per day, excepting cable splicers, who will receive $6.80 per day. The new wage scale will run from $130 to $140 per month.

WANT $25 A MONTH MORE.

Wheeling, W. Va., July 6.—The operators in the Pittsburgh district are trying to get a double station system, they are now insisting on an increase of 25 per month. That would every fourth day off duty instead of one day off each week.

OPERATORS REINSTATED.

Seattle, Wash., July 6.—Union operators who were recently locked out of the Postal Telegraph company offices in this city on Puget sound have been reinstated. Thirty-five operators were affected.

STRIKE COSTS HALF MILLION DOLLARS

Washington, June 6.—It cost the Washington Railway and Electric company more than a million dollars when its trainmen went on strike last year, according to a report just made to the public utilities commission, which has decided that no part of this expense may be saddled upon the Potomac electric power company, a subsidiary corporation.

The board of directors had assessed $500,000 against the power concern as its share of the strikes cost. In a letter to the company the commission informed it that the item is disallowed and will be disregarded in any future investigation as to the reasonableness of the rates, tolls and charges of the company.

The commission's action is based on an investigation made by its accountant. He estimates the actual cost of the strike at $1,000,000, against a quarter of a million dollars and the loss from revenue due to the strike at a similar amount.

At his suggestion the commission allows the company the sum of $1,-031.61, which the accountant says represents the fair cost to the company for precautionary measures taken for the protection of its property during the strike.

The charge of $100,000, which is disallowed, was paid to a detective agency, which furnished motormen and conductors during the strike and to other employes at agreed prices ranging from $5 and expenses a day up.

The report shows that in addition to the amount assessed against the Potomac company the cost of the strike borne by the railway company itself was $1,000,000, estimated loss in revenue to all companies, $225,000, or a total of $483,706.91. This is exclusive of bonuses paid loyal employes.

PAPER MAKERS' WAGE GAIN.

Washington, July 6.—Award of a general wage increase of 10 cents an hour for workers in the wood pulp and newsprint paper industry, with time and one-half for overtime, affecting the same work, has been announced by the war labor board.

The findings are binding upon 19 companies and affect the membership of eight unions. The wage scale, ranging from 15 to 32 per cent over schedules established in October, 1917, give inside day workers the lowest rate of 36 cents per hour, increasing for more skilled trades to a maximum of 5 cents per hour for mechanical repair men.

Eight hours is made a day for mill workers and nine hours for engineers outdoors, with time-and-one-half for overtime. An arrangement is made for revision of the scales on January 1 and July 1 of each year, in accordance with the rise or decline of commodity prices.

In its wage award the labor board declared that increases are based entirely upon increased cost of living. It orders the recognition of the rights of the workers to collective bargaining.

Holidays for each year—July 4, Labor Day, Thanksgiving and Christmas.

SIX-DAY STRIKE ENDED.

Dayton, O., July 6.—For six days the entire railway system of the city was completely tied up by one of the most effective strikes ever known in the city's experience. The men had demanded more pay and the recognition of their union. The officials of the company had refused to meet the men and consider their demands. Finally Gov. Cox tendered his services and advice in an effort to bring the two factions together. The conference was the result of the conference was that the drew up an agreement which proved satisfactory to both parties. It provided that the disputed points should be submitted to the war labor board, and that its findings would be accepted and govern in the future. As soon as the announcement was made the strikers returned to their cars and the regular traffic was resumed.

ADVANCE OF $10 A MONTH.

St. Louis, Mo., July 6.—The Fire Fighters having secured their independence and organized a union they applied to the board of aldermen for an increase in wages. Their first plea was practically turned down by the city officials discovered that they meant business ways were discovered by which an increase of $10 per month could be given them. They had the endorsement of the trade union movement and many of the citizens.

WON BY ARBITRATION.

Holyoke, Mass., July 6.—The members of the Carpenters' union were called in, and it has just rendered a finding which gives the strikers the price they demanded. The shop carpenters did not face the strike. They had asked for a 20 per cent increase, but the board allowed them only 17 per cent. The award is retroactive to May 28.

LIMB WORKERS WIN INCREASE

New York, July 6.—Being refused a raise in wages, the employees of Artificial Limb Workers' union No. 15,504, A. F. of L., went on strike May 1, and for $13 per week, 54 hours and the strikers returned to work Monday last. The eight-week strike resulted in a wage increase of $2.50 to $4 per week, an eight-hour day, time and one-half for overtime, double time for holidays, and reinstatement of all strikers.

54-HOUR BILL ENACTED.

Baton Rouge, La., July 6.—After being contested and bitterly fought battle the legislature finally passed the bill providing a minimum working week of 54 hours for women and children. It was carried by only one vote. The anti-child labor forces influence they could bring to bear on the members of the legislature to prevent its passage.

STRIKE CALLED OFF.

Columbus, O., July 6.—The strike of the street car men has been called off by the union after a conference with the officials of the Railway, Light & Power company, following a conference with a representative of the war labor board. It had been on for a week.

DIVISIONS WELL ORGANIZED.

Stockton, Cal., July 6.—The Brotherhood of Railway Carmen are fully organized on the Western Pacific from San Francisco to Salt Lake City and on the Southern Pacific from Oakland to Tracy, except four divisions, towns, one of them being Stockton.

Secessionists Must Be Ruthlessly Stamped Out

By SAMUEL GOMPERS, In American Federationist.

Recently a course of action was inaugurated by some of the coal miners of Colorado which calls for special consideration at this time. Some differences arose among the union officers which were carried to the general officers of the United Mine Workers of America. It is not necessary or interesting to discuss the causes of the difference. It is sufficient that the officers of the international union were unable to adjust them in accordance with the action taken by one faction. Whether there was just cause for complaint is immaterial to the point to which we address ourselves, but this fact is emphasized—that instead of continually endeavoring to win judgment and action to the view of the dissatisfied element they undertook to break away from the United Mine Workers of America and form dual, rival and antagonistic union, or minority, then made application to the American Federation of Labor for recognition. When the application was received, the president of the A. F. of L. in refusing to issue the charter stated to the applicants:

In reply, permit me to call your attention to the fact that under the laws of the A. F. of L. no charter can be granted to an association of workers who come under the jurisdiction of the existing organization except with the full consent and approval of that organization.

Of course, I have some understanding of the situation as it exists, and of the reasons assigned for the action in the effort to establish an independent or dual organization, but the organization recognized by the A. F. of L. is the body to ask for which you have all fought all these years, is that body which is the embodiment of solidarity in spirit and in fact among the workers in the mining industry or calling, and I would rather see the effort to form a unity of union for a cause in which I believe and have given my whole life than to attempt to form and foster a dual and rival union to an organization particularly as the United Mine Workers has done so much for the workers in that industry. Of course, under the laws and the policies and principles of the A. F. of L. we could not, in the one for which you apply can not be granted, therefore transmitted copy of your letter to the members of the carbon copy of my reply to the officers of the United Mine Workers of America.

This is the position of the bona fide organized labor movement of America. It is the result of its experience and judgment of the whole course of organized labor. It is the only consistent course which can be pursued if the best interests and the preservation of our country can be protected and maintained.

It may not be amiss to call attention to the fact that it is just about twenty years ago when the coal miners of America began to emerge from a condition worse than slavery and serfdom. Organization started in the bituminous fields—in the anthracite coal regions—the sacrifices which were made—the lives which were given to bring light into the life and the hearts of the miners of America. Without attempting here the history of the struggles, the sacrifices and the privations, suffice it to say that now the miners in the United Mine Workers of America, under the banner of the A. F. of L., have attained the full possession of high standards of life and work, and in their struggle shoulder to shoulder in the front ranks of the workers of America.

It is a tragedy and the language of words to describe. It is one of the achievements almost unparalleled in the history of the labor movement of any other country of the world. Who can forget the sufferings of the miners who fails to remember the murderous warfare at Ludlow? Who is it that would retire the condition in which only this mere reference can be made? The miners of Colorado were victims on the upward trend, both in organization, influence, power and importance and their material conditions, hours of labor, life and work.

And now, for some reason wholly inconsistent with that constructive course, by inaugurating a policy of rebellion, secession and rivalry, are the achievements of the past twenty years to be thrown back and into the scrapheap by the dismemberment of organization and recognition of the dual, rival and hostile organization of miners? For, be it remembered that if the Colorado dissidents are to be granted a charter or recognition of any kind by the organized labor movement, national, state or local, the workers of the dissidents in establishing their organization would mean the destruction of the United Mine Workers of America. Such a movement must not and will not succeed. What is described in the foregoing paragraphs is true at this present hour among several industries.

Recently, in Chicago, a rebellious secession movement was about to be launched in the Cigarmakers' International Union of America. Agents were sent to New York who were instrumental in creating a division, secession and rivalry. At a meeting held by the dissident element in New York, a resolution was adopted declaring for the elimination in the constitution of the international union and gave the international union officers fifteen days' time in which to reply and that unless the dissidents' demands for reorganization of cigarmakers would be organized. Recently the representatives of the secession movement stated to the president and first vice president of the International Union, that they knew the demands could not be granted. Nevertheless they proceeded to launch the organization, conducting shop strikes, making the demands that these factories should not be regarded as International union shops.

These men are traitors to their fellow-workers and to the cause of labor, and be it said to the credit of the Central Federated union of New York, that the secession movement was promptly denounced and a resolution adopted and fully carried into effect that neither recognition nor support be given to the secessionists, that they were regarded as giving aid and comfort to the enemy, not only to the enemy of labor but to the enemy of our country.

Information comes to us also that incipient attempts of the same character have been and are being made in small industries and some threaten in a few of the essential industries.

Reverting back to the action of the seceding miners of Colorado, we appeal to their sense of patriotism, their labor and international patriotism, to cease their efforts to divide the miners of America, and if not of Colorado, to make their contentions. If they have any just grievances within the limits of the organization. If they refuse to follow the course of true trade unionism they are not entitled to the scorn of every faithful, conscientious labor man of America. They are entitled to nothing but the scorn and contempt of the organized workers of Colorado, of Denver, or of any other locality.

If ever in the history of labor unity, solidarity of action, in fact and in spirit, are necessary, now is the time.

Secession in the labor movement must be effectually crushed if the rights of the toilers of America are to be protected and advanced just as secession in our republic was overwhelmingly crushed for the public and the maintenance of our freedom and the ability to enter into any contest for their perpetuation.

PAPER MAKERS' WAGE GAIN.

Washington, July 6.—Award of a general wage increase of 10 cents an hour for workers in the wood pulp and newsprint paper industry, with time and one-half for overtime affecting the same work, has been announced by the war labor board.

The findings are binding upon 19 companies and affect the membership of eight unions. The wage scale, ranging from 15 to 32 per cent over schedules established in October, 1917, give inside day workers the lowest rate of 36 cents per hour, increasing for more skilled trades to a maximum of 5 cents per hour for mechanical repair men.

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Holidays for each year—July 4, Labor Day, Thanksgiving and Christmas.

STREET CAR DISPUTES DELAYED BY WAR BOARD

Washington, July 6.—Action increasing the street car fares of the cities of the country was postponed by the President for several weeks. The war labor board, which is to make recommendations to him in connection with increases in wages the board will begin public hearings in more than 50 cities; adjourned its hearings without having formulated its letter to him.

The board recommended to the president that he administer the lines at least so far as to bring a higher fare than now in operation, pending the disposition of a street railroad administrator for capacity.

The board adjourned to scatter over the country in sections, adjusting various disputes. Members and chairmen will go to Bridgeport, Conn., Rockford, Ill., manufacturing and factory troubles, and were assigned also to the Erie Lighting company's difficulties at Erie. Pending the appointment of the board or its investigators will take up adjustments of labor difficulties with the following: Metal trades company, Wheeling, W. Va., Studebaker Manufacturers' association, Chicago; National Refining company, Coffeyville, Kans.; Mason Machine Tool company, Bridgeport; Kelvale Steel company, Philadelphia, where A. C. Dickey, president of the company refuses to recognize the authority of the board, because it involves the employment of his men are on strike; Corn Products company, at Granite City, Ill.; Northern Textile mills at Lawrence, Mass.; company, Hammond, Ind.; and Hamilton Machine Tool company, Hamilton, Ohio.

A building trades trouble in Cleveland and the foundry controversy at Detroit will also be investigated. The whole board will hear the controversy in the Lumber industries of Minnesota to govern industrial relations in that state. The minimum wage was raised before the board as to whether the governor's proclamation clashes with the federal board's action as approved by the president, as a basis for the setting of industrial disputes during the war.

WAGES $7.20 PER DAY.

Vancouver, British Columbia, July 6.—A daily wage of $7.20 per mechanic, a basic eight-hour day and the open shop of shipyard employment by the union are the chief features of the wage agreement recently formulated by the executive board of the Pacific coast council of Shipbuilders, Iron Shipbuilders and Helpers. The new arrangement became operative July 1 and affects 25 ships on the Canadian coast except San Francisco. A similar agreement exists on the Mexican border to Prince Rupert, Canada, is affected by the new order.

ENGINEERS WANT NEW SCALE.

Vancouver, British Columbia, July 6.—The Steam Operating Engineers' union has determined on putting in force a new scale on July 1. It covers the following points: First, the provisions first-class engineers are to receive $5 a day; second-class, $4 (8 days' hours and time and one-half for overtime); second-class, $3.5; third-class, $3 cents an hour; fourth-class, 75 cents. For plants outside the larger centers additional is added for first-class engineers and 5 cents an hour to the wages of all other classes.

LEFT TO WAR LABOR BOARD.

Glen Falls, N. Y., July 6.—The threatened strike at the International Paper company mills at Glens Falls, Hudson Falls, Fort Edward and Corinth did not materialize. It is announced that after a series of conferences that a settlement of the controversy, involving the employes' demand for a basic satisfactory wage scale, would be left to the federal war labor board.

GAIN IN WAGES; LESS HOURS.

San Francisco, July 6.—As a result of an agreement reached between representatives of the Milk Wagon Drivers' union and the Dairy Employers' association the wages of the workers were increased in the milk industry on both sides of the bay. The employers agreed to pay drivers $125 per month and the inside workers $104, for a nine-hour day with four days' rest each month.

WAITERS END STRIKE.

Cincinnati, July 6.—The strike of the cooks and Waiters' union, which has been on since April 1, has been brought to an end. The employers have granted an increase in wages with one day off each week, which was inaugurated July 1. The agreement is to run until that day next year.

FAVOR COLLECTIVE LABOR BARGAINING

Washington, July 6.—The war labor board has set its face against the individual bargaining method, and a decision reached at hearings held in the city has affirmed the right to labor to collective bargaining.

Action came in the case of the General Electric company's trouble at its Pittsfield, Mass., plant. It is the first decision of its kind by the board, and establishes a precedent that will rule in all such conflicts between labor and employers during the war.

The General Electric company at Pittsfield has refused to recognize committees of its employes or representatives of the union in making wage contracts. Contracts have been submitted to prospective employes and have been signed by them before they were placed on the payroll. The same practice is followed in many of the large industrial plants of the country.

The case came to the board on appeal both against the contract system and on a question of wages. The board ordered that a committee be appointed to settle this wage dispute along with one at the Schenectady plant where a similar issue is involved, and that the company has recognized committees of its employes.

In its order the board directed that the individual contracts now in effect be abrogated and that the company make none such in the future.

The decision is regarded as one of the greatest victories for labor in a series of victories awarded it by the efforts of the government to mobilize industry to win the war.

INSIDE IRON WORKERS WIN.

New York, July 6.—Inside Iron Workers' union No. 12 secured a substantial increase in wages for its 2,000 members. The new agreement calls for $7 a week for foremen, $30 for helpers, and a flat $3 increase for all other employes per week. It is stated by Edward Hunt that association of Architectural Iron Workers, which controls most of the shops. The increase amounts to $4 a week for most of the men. The hours are 48 per week.

STOGIE MAKERS ON STRIKE.

Wheeling, W. Va., July 6.—The 400 members of Stogie Makers' union No. 501 and the stripper girls of Federal Labor union No. 14,517 are on strike as a result of the employers refusing to grant an increase in wages. The stogiemakers are asking for an advance of $2 per thousand and the stripper girls 50 cents per day or 1 pound. An early settlement with two of the firms involved is expected, but Pollock is obstinate and may give the strikers a hard fight.

TEACHERS ORGANIZE.

St. Paul, Minn., July 6.—More than 200 teachers were organized during the convention of the A. F. of L., under the name of the St. Paul Federation of Teachers, affiliated to Joint meeting of the Grade Teachers' Federal at the Select Women's club. They will receive a charter from the American Federation of Teachers, Chicago.

GIRL CLERKS STRIKE.

Muskegon, Mich., July 6.—The girl members of the Retail Clerks' union in most of the stores in this city struck on Wednesday afternoon off, an increase in wages and a minimum wage scale. The following stores affected have refused to meet their committee.

NEW RAILROAD UNION.

St. Joseph, Mo., July 6.—A union of the International Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employes has been organized among the workers on the railroads centering in this city and for a distance in each direction on the lines, as well as the local yards.

AWARDED WAGE INCREASE.

New Haven, Conn., July 6.—An arbitration board in the Cheney Brothers' Makers' union No. 29 an increase of 60 cents a thousand for cigar makers at five cents and $1 on cigars selling at 10 and 15 cents. The packers get an advance of five cents per thousand.

SECURED REDUCED HOURS.

Wheeling, W. Va., July 6.—Drug Clerks' union No. 26 has secured reduced hours and increased wages under their first contract with the employing druggists. It provides for a 54-hour week and $18 per week. Wages will be $ 15 cents per hour.

HEALTH INSURANCE NEEDED FOR WORKERS

Detroit, Mich., July 6.—That health insurance is a pressing need not only for the laboring classes but for middle class families but even for the more prosperous wage earners, under present conditions, is indicated by the result of a survey of sickness in Highland Park, a suburb of Detroit.

In this town of 35,000, whose industrial life centers in the Ford Motor company plant, there is found a most unusually high. The majority of its citizens own their homes. Yet in this "model town" a house to house canvass by the Detroit home nursing association during the winter of 1917 one family out of every four had to face "the problem of acute illness." About one-fifth of the cases required hospital treatment. Perhaps 10 per cent had trained nursing and another 20 per cent a neighbor to help. Only about one-half of the maternity cases visited received attention.

While other investigations have revealed the severity of avoidable sufferings from sickness, the high average among wage earners receiving less than $100 a month, the Highland Park survey has thrown a startling light upon the family earnings and the lack of proper medical treatment. The need for men's health insurance as proposed in America will provide at small cost to the insured and to the state, prevention of sickness, its discomforts, the tide over loss of earnings, but also adequate hospital and medical nursing care, maternity benefits, and a financial incentive to disease prevention.

AWARD ACCEPTED.

Butte, Mont., July 6.—As the result of a strike of plumbers, a government mediator was called in to assist in adjusting the controversy. The mediator was given an advance of 75 cents a day, bringing the scale up to $8.75 for eight hours, the mediator announcing that he meant eight hours on the job, the A. F. of L. plumbers' union having secured since the commencement of the war.

SATISFACTORY RESULTS.

Emeryville, Cal., July 6.—A strike of the Factory Mills and Warehouse men's union ended with a splendid victory after being out five days. Time and one-half for overtime on week days, and double time for Sundays and holidays recognized by the union and the elimination of an objectionable foreman are the fruits of the struggle.

IRON WORKERS ORGANIZE.

San Diego, Cal., July 6.—A Bridge and Structural Iron Workers' union has been completed here and includes nearly all the contractors in the city. They are expecting a large influx of iron workers as soon as the shipbuilding work gets under full way.

VOLUNTARY CONCESSION.

Fresno, Cal., July 6.—The secretary of the Brewery Workers' union was notified by the boss brewers that a voluntary increase of $5 per week has been granted to all members of the union. The notice of an increase in wages comes at a time when no demand was in contemplation.

ENGINEERS GET $7 A DAY.

Fresno, Cal., July 6.—The Holstine and Rossi company, contractors, have secured an increase of $1 per day. The new scale gives the engineers $7 a day and has been put into effect without any trouble.

ALL IN THE NEW UNION.

San Diego, Cal., July 6.—When the new Roofers' union was organized here last week every man working at the trade in the city had attached his name to the union's roster, an unusual procedure.

SCALE 75 CENTS AN HOUR.

St. Louis, Mo., July 6.—Negotiations have resulted favorably for Sheet Metal Workers' union No. 73, and a settlement immediately by the new rates will be 75 cents per hour.

PRESIDENT URGES U. S. CONTROL OF WIRES

Washington, July 6.—Government control and operation of the nation's telegraph and telephone systems was recommended to Congress by President Wilson. Accompanying his recommendation were letters from Secretaries Baker, Daniels and Postmaster-General Burleson, whose opinions had been sought by a committee of congress. The two latter favor government ownership.

The president's views were communicated in a brief note indorsing the legislation, but adding no reference to the strike of Western Union operators called for July 8.

The resolution for government control, which was introduced by representative Aswell of Louisiana, reads:

"That the president, if in his discretion he shall deem it necessary, is hereby order to insure their continuous operation or to guard the secrecy of military or official communications, or to prevent communication by enemies or other public enemies thereof, or for other military or public reasons, shall have power to take possession and control of any line of telegraph, telephone, marine cable or radio systems and operate the same in connection with any other like law, so far as applicable, which are in force as to steam railroads while under federal control."

This action will probably forestall the strike called for by the Commercial Telegraphers' union for July 8.

WERE GRANTED AN ADVANCE.

Butte, Mont., July 6.—The demands of Typographical union, which had been pending since June 1, have been adjusted by conciliation. An increase of 75 cents per day was secured, dating from the commencement of the dispute. Dating from September 1, $5 more additional will be added. The contract runs for 18 months. The printing pressmen were granted similar increases.

INCREASE OF $1 PER DAY.

Butte, Mont., July 6.—After the members of the Electrical Workers' union had been on strike for a week, a government mediator was called in to smooth over the trouble. After hearing both sides the mediator announced an award the strikers an increase of $1 a day, making the wages $8 for eight hours. Overtime work is to be paid at the rate of price and one-half.

DEMAND AN INCREASE.

Salt Lake City, Utah, July 6.—When the machine shops and foundries refused a demand for an increase of $1 a day nearly 1,000 employes went on strike. The metal trades council is supporting the strikers. An offer of 50 cents has been refused. An effort is being made to secure a settlement through a government mediator.

TO STOP PROFITEERING.

Kingston, Jamaica, July 6.—The Governor is taking steps to prevent profiteering in imported and locally manufactured articles, including agricultural implements. He will appoint an arbitration board for each article, which will fix prices and adjudicate disputes between employers and employes. The railway strike has been settled amicably.

SHORTER DAY FOR ICEMEN.

Seattle, Wash., July 6.—This city claims to have the distinction of having established a record for the world. Their hours of labor have been reduced from 11 to a basic eight-hour day with additional pay for overtime. Their wages are 25% per month, with 75 cents for overtime.

WAGES FIXED AT 70 CENTS.

Fort Wayne, Ind., July 6.—The plaster contractors have conceded the members of the Plasterers' union an advance of 70 cents per hour as the result of conferences. The new deal continues until May 1, next, and recognizes the union and provides for arbitration in the future.

SHOE WORKERS' UNION.

Mobile, Ala., July 6.—A union of shoe workers has been organized with a membership of 8. It consists of white and colored workers.

WORKERS EARN MORE, THEIR WAGES BUY LESS

Cincinnati, July 6.—In comparing the increases wages and living expenses as compared to the months before the war, and he it said to the credit of the Central Federated union of New York, that the secession movement was promptly denounced and a resolution adopted and fully carried into effect that neither recognition nor support be given to the secessionists, that they were regarded as giving aid and comfort to the enemy, not only to the enemy of labor but to the enemy of our country.

Information comes to us also that incipient attempts of the same character have been and are being made in small industries and some threaten in a few of the essential industries.

Reverting back to the action of the seceding miners of Colorado, we appeal to their sense of patriotism, their labor and international patriotism, to cease their efforts to divide the miners of America, if not of Colorado, to make their contentions. If they have any just grievances within the limits of the organization. If they refuse to follow the course of true trade unionism they are not entitled to the scorn of every faithful, conscientious labor man of America. They are entitled to nothing but the scorn and contempt of the organized workers of Colorado, of Denver, or of any other locality.

If ever in the history of labor unity, solidarity of action, in fact and in spirit, are necessary, now is the time.

Secession in the labor movement must be effectually crushed if the rights of the toilers of America are to be protected and advanced just as secession in our republic was overwhelmingly crushed for the public and the maintenance of our freedom and the ability to enter into any contest for their perpetuation.

"Don't they know that they are getting higher wages than ever before? Don't they know that the man who invests his money during war time performs a distinct patriotic act? Don't they know that capital is entitled to greater returns than in normal times?

"If 6 per cent was a fair return upon capital invested prior to the war, and now 30 per cent is only a fair return, where is the workman who is getting three and four times his former wages? Where is the workman who, instead of receiving $3 per day for production has had it raised to $12 or even $20 a day?

"True, in some of the great steel mills, working conditions are such that would discount Dante's Inferno, some of the steel men receive what appears to be fabulous returns for their labor." But after a man has worked a short time at his fabulous salary, he, he is ready to have friends send flowers, in care of the undertaker.

"Are not the dollars the dollars receive four or five times as much for their use at present, workmen, in the purchasing power of the dollar? If capital were satisfied with a reasonable return, the price of many commodities would cease to rise, living be cheaper, but that is not the case.

"Dollars have no heart, they simply perform the will of those to whom they belong. But when a workingman has a heart; is the power which adds to the value of the dollar, and when he is more practically inclined ask, 'What is the matter with labor? Does labor control the dollar?'

"The cost of existence to labor has doubled, tripled, in the past year or two, and the worker is called unpatriotic if he asks 6 per cent for its use. It is true that many workers have received more pay, and but all those increases have been swallowed up in the increased cost of living; leaving the worker no better off than he was prior to the raise."

SERIOUS TEXTILE STRIKES.

Washington, July 6.—Textile manufacturers at Lowell, Mass., have asked the department of labor to intervene in a threatened strike of 20,000 workers, which promises to extend throughout Massachusetts and New Hampshire. A conciliator has been detailed to make of investigation.

Lowell, Mass., July 6.—Six of the large cotton mills here were crippled by the strike of union operatives, which went into effect today. The manufacture of cotton duck, was virtually out of action. The strike, which was ordered by the textile union council, is for a wage increase of 5 per cent. The council represents 15,000 operatives.

Pawtucket, R. I., July 6.—Two thousand weavers in the looom sheds employed in 27 cotton mills in the Pawtucket valley, failed to report for work because of the refusal of the owners to grant demands for a 15 per cent wage increase.

Manchester, N. H., July 6.—The Amoskeag and Stark mills were closed today by a strike of cotton operatives for a 15 per cent wage increase instead of a 12½ per cent increase granted by the management. It effects 20,000 operatives.

CHANGED AFFILIATION.

Jamestown, N. Y., July 6.—The Brotherhood of Textile Workers (an independent organization), has changed its affiliation and accepted a charter from the Union Textile Workers, affiliated to the A. F. of L.

Hamilton, Ontario, Can., July 6.—The new union label for textile workers has been completed and starts off with a big membership.

NEW CARPENTERS' UNION.

Madisonville, La., July 6.—Carpenters' union No. 2047, Brotherhood Carpenters and Joiners, has been granted a charter with a charter membership of 47.

Handsboro, Miss., July 6.—A general organizer of the Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners formed a new union of carpenters here this week.

WON 8 HOURS AND 10 P. C.

New York, July 6.—Pearl Button Workers' union has won the eight-hour day and an increase of 10 per cent. The new conditions were secured without any difficulty from the employers. The increase affects the operators get up to $25 and on the larger sizes up to $28.

$495 FOR LOSS OF 18 TEETH.

Trenton, N. J., July 6.—Under the New Jersey workmen's compensation act, C. H. Sparmaker recovered a verdict of $495 in the circuit court, a substantial part of which was given to him because in an accident he lost 18 teeth. Disability Sparmaker lost 18 teeth.

ADVANCE AVERTED STRIKE.

St. Catharines, Ontario, July 6.—In order to avert a strike in the industrial factories of the Welland Vale, the manufacturers' specialists' increase was conceded that brings wages up to 30 cents per hour, with a reduction of the hours to nine.

WHEEL BRICK AND MORTAR.

Wheeling, W. Va., July 6.—For the first time in the city's history women and girls are employed by building contractors. Women who can stand the work now wheel brick and mortar for the skilled men.

MINIMUM WAGE OF 65 CENTS.

Toronto, Canada, July 6.—The Pattern Makers' league reports that things are moving along very satisfactorily. The minimum wage scale was put into force here of 65 cents per hour.

CRIMINAL ACTION OF PROFITEERS EXPOSED

Washington, July 6.—In a sensational report submitted to the president by the senate federal trade commission charged that unfair and extortionate profits were being made by many of the great industries vital to the nation's war program, and recommended that congress take steps to check the situation, as far as possible, by imposing heavy war excess profits taxes. The commission, in taking the latter position, stated that all of its findings supported the utterances of President Wilson, who in his address to congress on May 27 said:

"The profiteering that cannot be got at by the restraints of conscience and love of country can be got at by taxation. There is much profiteering now, and the information in regard to it is available and indisputable."

In backing up this assertion by the president, the trade commission, in its report, says:

"The commission has reason to know that profiteering exists. Much of it is due to advantages taken of the necessities of the times, as attested in the war pressure for heavy production and some of it is attributed to inordinate greed and barefaced fraud."

The report declares unprecedented profits are shown in a survey of the steel industry. In this connection it is said:

"Five meat packers, Armour, Swift, Morris, Cudahy and Wilson, and their subsidiary and affiliated companies, have a monopolistic control of the meat industry. Some of them have a like domination in other products. Their enormous profits in this country every device that is useful to them without regard to law.

"Armour & Co. increased in terms of profit, reveals that four of these companies have invested upon the people unconscionably."

Armour & Co., it is pointed out, raised its $20,000,000 to $40,000,000 to $100,000,000 in 1916 without receiving a dollar of cash.

Armour and Company's profits on its subsidiary leather business are shown by two sheets of it. Ogden Armour—one for $915,787, the other for $1,145,475—received for dividends on his investments in leather companies.

Illustrating again the profits of the packers, the report says that while their business increased only 155 per cent in the "war time" period, their profits increased 1,000 per cent, or two and one-half times the sales.

In its investigation of the zinc industry the commission found that officers of the American Metal company, incorporated in New York, would take the price for high salaries. Following the practice of the "Big Interest" paid the leading officials of that corporation:

Dr. Bruchschlid, chairman, board of directors, $170,962.96. C. M. Loeb, president, $204,000. Otto Sussman, vice president, $227,596.04. Ed Loeb, vice president, $147,950.39. Sol Rose, manager, New York office, $156,-353.12.

These salaries and "extras," aggregating more than $1,000,000, were charged to the "expense account," the report says.

The report also takes a whack at the "profiteering" in coal, contending that price-fixing policies. With regard to steel, it says that while the market price "prevailed at which the steel industry was operated, as affected by price fixing, still the stronger companies in the industry were favored by profits which are without precedent.

The net income of the United States Steel corporation for the first quarter while in 1917 it reached the unheard-of sum of $105,000,000.

The same is true, the report says, with regard to the flour trade. For the years of 1916 and 1917 the trade earned 12 per cent on their investment as compared to 85 per cent for the year ending June 30, 1917.

It is a noticeable fact that all the companies which have appeared before the commission as being excessive profiteers are and have been bitterly opposed to trade unions and collective bargaining.

QUARRY HAZARDOUS WORK.

Harrisburg, Pa., July 6.—A stone quarry law has been declared unsatisfactory for employment of minors, and they may not work in such places, under a bill which passed finally in the state industrial board. The board has also ruled that employment for minors on tap and trimming floors will not be permitted until an application is made to the industrial office and an inspection made.

CAR MEN'S NEW AGREEMENT.

Toronto, Canada, July 6.—Division 'Til, Railway Street Car Men's association, has secured a new agreement giving its members 7 cents per hour advance. The new scale commences at 35 cents for the first year and after three years' service. Overtime will be paid at the rate of 50 cents. The barn men were advanced 2½ cents and the trackmen 2 cents per hour.

CONCESSIONS MADE.

New Haven, Conn., July 6.—A wage adjustment has been reached between the Connecticut company and the employes' union and the Shore Line Electric Railway company by which the new scale will be $3.25 on the first year, $3.50 on the second year, $3.75 on the third year and $4 on the fourth year. The barn men were advanced 2½ cents and the trackmen 2 cents per hour.

PAY $6 PER DAY.

Bloomington, Ill., July 6.—Scale negotiations were conducted so quietly that few knew of the meeting between the master plumbers and a committee of the Plumbers' union which worked out the agreement whereby the workers a new rate of $6 a day, effective immediately.

RAISED TO $4.20 A DAY.

Bloomington, Ill., July 6.—Recently negotiated scale of Electrical Workers' union No. 499 (outside men) with the Illinois Power company, operating company gives the workers 5 cents an hour raise, an eight-hour day with 8 cents and one-half for overtime, making the wages $4.20 per day.

PATTERN MAKERS ON STRIKE.

St. Louis, Mo., July 6.—The employes of the Wagner Electric company, the master plumbers and a committee of the Plumbers' union which worked out the agreement whereby the workers a new rate of $6 a day, effective immediately.

THEY GOT TOGETHER.

Springfield, Ill., July 6.—Scale negotiations were concluded so quietly that few knew of the meeting between the master plumbers and a committee of the Plumbers' union which worked out the agreement whereby the workers a new rate of $6 a day, effective immediately.